

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01314 301811Z
ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNICEF
SUBJ: UNICEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REF: STATE 96779

1. SUMMARY ON APRIL 29 AMBASSADOR LEONARD AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES CALLED ON SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM TO PRESS AGAIN CANDIDACY OF JIM GRANT FOR UNICEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. SECRETARY GENERAL REFUSED TO COMMIT HIMSELF BUT CONCEDED STRENGTH OF OUR ARGUMENTS AND STATED THAT PERSONALLY HE WANTED TO APPOINT GRANT. HE APPEALED FOR TIME.
END SUMMARY

2. ON APRIL 29 LEONARD AND MAYNES CALLED ON SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM AND MADE POINTS IN REFTEL. MAYNES STRESSED TO SECRETARY GENERAL MAJOR EFFORT OF THIS ADMINISTRATION TO RESTORE DOMESTIC SUPPORT AMONG AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR UN SYSTEM. HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF UNICEF IN THIS EFFORT SINCE IT IS UN INSTITUTION UNIQUELY POPULAR WITHIN CONGRESS AND AMONG AMERICAN PEOPLE. HE POINTED OUT TO SECRETARY GENERAL THAT IMMEDIATELY UPON ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE THIS ADMINISTRATION HAD TAKEN SEVERAL STEPS TO INDICATE A NEW U.S. ATTITUDE TO THE UN. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WALDHEIM WOULD TAKE THESE STEPS INTO
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ACCOUNT AND ASSIST US BY APPOINTING GRANT TO THIS POSITION.

3. WALDHEIM STATED THAT HE APPRECIATED WHAT THE U.S. WAS DOING. HE SAID, HOWEVER, HE WAS UNDER GREAT PRESSURE FROM SWEDEN FOR THIS POST. THE SWEDES POINTED OUT THAT THEY HAD PRESSED MR. MICHANEK'S CANDIDACY FOR UNDP WHEN PETERSON RESIGNED BUT US HAD PREVAILED IN OBTAINING THE

APPOINTMENT OF BRADFORD MORSE. NOW SWEDES WERE ARGUING THAT THEY WERE UNDER-REPRESENTED AT SENIOR LEVEL OF UN SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS THEY WERE MAKING. THEY ARGUED THAT UNICEF SHOULD NOT BE PERMANENTLY HELD BY AN AMERICAN.

4. WALDHEIM BROUGHT UP THE QUESTION OF SWEDISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNICEF WHICH THEY CLAIMED WERE HIGHER THAN U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS. MAYNES POINTED OUT THAT IN 1976 TOTAL U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS, -- CASH, AND IN KIND FROM USG AND NGO SOURCES -- WERE 29.3 MILLION WHEREAS THE FIVE NORDIC COUNTRIES CONTRIBUTED TOTAL OF 27.9 MILLION. WALDHEIM ASKED THAT WE PROVIDE HIM WITH AN AIDE MEMOIRE ON THIS AND OTHER POINTS.

5. MAYNES URGED THAT WALDHEIM PICK A CANDIDATE NOW. OTHERWISE SWEDES WOULD ENCOURAGE MEMBERS OF UNICEF BOARD TO CHOOSE SIDES. THERE WOULD BE AN OPEN CONFRONTATION AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD RISK LOSING EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THIS AND OTHER UN POSTS.

6. WALDHEIM SAID THAT HE COULD NOT ACCEPT THIS ARGUMENT HE UNDERSTOOD AND SYMPATHIZED WITH OUR POINTS ABOUT THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO THE UN SYSTEM OF HAVING AN AMERICAN HEAD UNICEF. HOWEVER HE THOUGHT OBJECTIVELY THAT HE SHOULD PICK A SWEDE CONSIDERING THE LARGE NUMBER OF POSTS IN THE UN SYSTEM ALREADY HELD BY AMERICANS. HE MENTIONED LARGE NUMBER OF DEMARCHES THE SWEDES HAD MADE ON THIS ISSUE INCLUDING THE LATEST WHICH POINTED OUT THAT MICHANEK WAS NOT JUST A SWEDISH CANDIDATE BUT THE CANDIDATE OF ALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NORDIC COUNTRIES.

7. MAYNES SAID THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD HAVE TO MAKE HIS SELECTION, AS WE KNEW HE WOULD, ON THE BASIS OF WHAT WOULD BE BEST OVERALL FOR THE UN SYSTEM. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT FROM THIS STANDPOINT FAVORABLE ACTION ON THE GRANT CANDIDACY WAS CALLED FOR. WALDHEIM SAID THAT HE AGREED PERSONALLY WITH THIS ARGUMENT. HOWEVER, HE NEEDED TIME TO WORK THIS OUT AND WHILE HE PERSONALLY SUPPORTED US, HE COULD NOT MAKE A COMMITMENT AT THIS POINT.

8. HE ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE BETTER TO EXTEND LABOUISSSE, WHO "DESPITE HIS RECENT AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT IS VERY VIGOROUS." MAYNES REPLIED THAT LABOUISSSE PERSONALLY HAD TOLD HIM IT WAS TIME FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO TAKE OVER UNICEF. LABOUISSSE COMMENTED THAT HIS ENERGY LEVEL HAD GONE DOWN. WALDHEIM DID NOT REPLY TO THIS. HE STATED THAT HE WAS TRYING TO FIND ANOTHER POST IN THE UN SYSTEM FOR MICHANEK. MAYNES STATED THAT WHILE WE HAD NO INTENTION

OF NEGOTIATING THE SUBJECT WITH SWEDEN, WE MIGHT BE
PREPARED TO SUPPORT MICHANEK FOR ANOTHER UN POST AS
AN ISSUE INDEPENDENT FROM THE UNICEF POSITION. WALDHEIM
INDICATED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THIS.

9. COMMENT: WHILE WALDHEIM AVOIDED FIRM COMMITMENT TO US
CANDIDATE, CONVERSATION SERVED USEFUL PURPOSE OF MAKING IT
MORE DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO APPOINT SWEDE. FINAL OUTCOME
PROBABLY WILL DEPEND ON WALDHEIM'S SUCCESS IN FINDING SOMETHING
ELSE FOR MICHANEK WHO IF HE LOSES UNICEF WILL HAVE LOST TWO
TOP UN JOBS.
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